

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 344

By Stevens

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dale R. Kelley of Huntingdon.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should honor the memory of those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual was Dale R. Kelley, a renowned public servant and nationally known basketball official who had an active career in county and state public service and collegiate athletics and was a friend to all who were blessed to know him; and

WHEREAS, the son of Jesse Kelley and Ruth Helen White Kelley, Dale Kelley graduated from Huntingdon High School in 1957 and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Bethel University, which later awarded him an honorary doctorate. He also served for four years as a communications specialist in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelley began his career in government service as Carroll County assessor of property, holding that position for four years before serving for five years as a Carroll County commissioner; his robust record of public service went on to include three terms as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives and nine years on the Huntingdon school board; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded and sought after for his expertise, Dale Kelley was entrusted to serve under three Tennessee governors, serving as commissioner of the Employment Security Division and commissioner of the Department of Transportation under Governor Lamar Alexander, a member of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission under Governor Don Sundquist, and senior advisor and special assistant to Governor Bill Haslam; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelley was the owner of K & K Real Estate and Rental Properties, and at the time of his death, he had recently stepped down as Bethel University's athletic director, a position he had held since 2012, and was still serving as mayor of Huntingdon; and

WHEREAS, Dale Kelley served the people of Huntingdon as mayor for thirty years; under his leadership, Huntingdon received the Excellence in Downtown Revitalization Award and the 2007 Governor's Award in the Arts, and in 2008, Mayor Kelley received the Tommie Goodwin Mayor of the Year Award for the State of Tennessee from the Tennessee Municipal League; and

WHEREAS, his other recognitions include the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce's Carroll Countian of the Year honor, the Carroll County Silver Medallion Award, and Huntingdon's Pinnacle of Excellence Award for outstanding leadership and accomplishments in government, athletics, and community; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Kelley led the vision and development of the Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center; he played a key role in attracting and securing the \$240 million industrial expansion of Norandal USA, Inc., to Huntingdon, and he worked with state and local teams to bring Behlen Manufacturing Co. to Huntingdon's vacant industrial building in 1999; and

WHEREAS, in seeing through his plan to develop a lake in Carroll County for economic and recreation purposes, he was instrumental in the construction of Carroll County's 1,000-acre recreational lake; he worked tirelessly on the project, beginning in 1984, when he took his cause to the State Legislature and the Beaver Creek Watershed Authority, later renamed the Carroll County Watershed Authority, was born; and

WHEREAS, he served as secretary and treasurer of the Carroll County Watershed Authority Board; his long list of leadership roles also included serving on the Tennessee

Municipal League Board of Directors, Tennessee Municipal League Risk Management Pool Board, and Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Board; and

WHEREAS, beyond his government service, Dale Kelley was known nationally as one of the best NCAA basketball officials in the history of the game; he served at various times as coordinator of officials for the Big 12 Conference, Conference USA, Sun Belt Conference, Southland Conference, and Ohio Valley Conference; and

WHEREAS, he was an accomplished basketball and baseball player at Bethel University, and in addition to the Bethel Athletics Hall of Fame, he was inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame, the Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame, and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, which he also served as a member of its board of directors. In 1998, the Kelley Sports Complex was named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelley had been a member of Huntingdon First Baptist Church since the age of thirteen; he was a former deacon at the church and served as chairman for four years; and

WHEREAS, Dale Kelley is survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, Carlene Tullos Kelley; daughters, Amanda (Rick) Wallace and Meredith (Tommy) Surber; son, Cliff (Holly) Kelley; and grandchildren, Payten Plunk, Jack Surber, Cole Edwards, Eli Surber, Ty Kelley, Tate Surber, Quinn Kelley, and Max Kelley; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, James Kelley and Dwayne Kelley; and

WHEREAS, Dale Kelley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional gentleman and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dale R. Kelley, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction. We extend our condolences to the family of Mr. Kelley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.